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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) A method for treating [or preventing] alopecia, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof [an amount effective for treating or preventing alopecia of] at least one active agent comprising a sequence of at least three contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I



wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of H, Asp, Glu, Asn, Acpc (1-aminocyclopentane carboxylic acid), Ala, Me²Gly, Pro, Bet, Glu(NH₂), Gly, Asp(NH₂) and Suc,

R²[R^B] is selected from the group consisting of Arg, Lys, Ala, Orn, Ser(Ac), Sar, D-Arg and D-Lys;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of Val, Ala, Leu, Lys, norLeu, Ile, Gly, Pro, Aib, Acpc and Tyr;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of Tyr, Tyr(PO₃)₂, Thr, Ser, Ala, homoSer and azaTyr;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of Ile, Ala, Leu, norLeu, Val and Gly;

R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of His, Arg or 6-NH₂-Phe;

R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of Pro or Ala; and

R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of Phe, Phe(Br), Ile and Tyr, excluding sequences including R⁴ as a terminal Tyr group.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises a sequence of at least four contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises a sequence of at least five contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises a sequence of at least six contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises a sequence of at least seven contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least three contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least four contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least five contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least six contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least seven contiguous amino acids of groups R¹-R⁸ in the sequence of general formula I.

11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises the sequence SEQ ID NO:41.

12. (Previously canceled)

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists of the sequence SEQ ID NO:41.

14. (Previously Canceled)

B3

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the alopecia is associated with a disorder selected from the group consisting of adrenergic alopecia, telogen effluvium, alopecia areata, traumatic alopecia, anagen effluvium, nutritional deficiencies, metabolic defects, marked weight loss, diabetes, hypervitaminosis, hypovitaminosis, zinc deficiency, alopecia vulgaris, alopecia pustulosa, alopecia erythrodermica, alopecia arthropathica, para-alopelia, palmoplantar pustulosis, ichthyoses, keratodermias and genodermatoses with pathological cornification disorders.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising treating the subject with an amount effective of another compound for treating or preventing alopecia, selected from the group consisting of minoxidol, keratinocyte growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, epidermal growth factor, butyric acid and its derivatives, ammonium trichloro(dioxy ethylene-0,0') tellurate, interleukin 1, prostaglandin E2, cyclosporine A, corticosteroids and calcitriol.